

Virginia Comprehensive Assistance Network [VA CAN] Meeting
April 19, 2005
Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Richard Rasmussen, Acting Ch. - DEQ, Keith Boisvert- DEQ, Linda Hawkins- IRS, **Wayne Waldrop-DBA, Georgiana Ball- DGS** and Chuck McCarty - DEQ.

Note: **Bold** indicates first time attendee.

Meeting Speaker:

Keith Boisvert, Environmental Specialist II, DEQ's Pollution Prevention Program

1. Opening/Introductions – Richard Rasmussen

Round-the-table introductions.

2. Presentation by Keith Boisvert – Office of Pollution Prevention Programs

The Pollution Prevention (P2) Program is non-regulatory program that has voluntary programs and partnerships that create opportunities for pollution prevention, technical assistance, awards and public recognition. Its website is <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/>.

- **Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP)** is an Environmental Management System recognition program that currently has over 200 facilities participating. There are two levels of participation E2 and E3. Both levels report annually to the P2 Program on March 31st.
 - **E2 Process-** the facility applies; DEQ checks the compliance of the facility for the last 3 years; the facility must have a full or partial Environmental Measurement System (EMS).
 - **E3 Process-** the facility applies; DEQ checks the compliance of the facility for the last 3 years; the facility must have a complete EMS; P2 visits (audits) the facility.
 - **USEPA's Performance Track-** the facility applies; an EMS must be in place for a full cycle; the facility must have a record of sustained compliance; it must make commitments to doing 3 specific P2 reductions; commitment to do public outreach; and an independent EMS assessment (audit). If a facility qualifies for Performance Track then it is considered E3, also. But not vice versa. EPA's program is active in numerous states.
 - **Advantages of VEEP-** positive recognition; publicity; involvement in stakeholder meetings; regulatory flexibility or incentives, including possible reduced permit fees starting July, 2005; and in Performance Track, the facility is a low priority for inspections and has RCRA storage flexibility.
- **Other P2 Programs-**
 - **Virginia Information Source for Energy (VISE)-** provides information about energy efficiency, renewable energy and financial incentives.
 - **E-Cycling-** a pilot program funded by USEPA which ended in 2003, to develop an electronics recycling infrastructure and also recycled 100 tons of electronics.
 - **Mercury Reduction Program-** this program is working with auto recyclers, schools, and dentists to reduce mercury getting into the environment. It also involves reducing the improper disposal of fluorescent bulbs and thermostats that contain mercury.
 - **VH2E-** part of a national program to eliminate mercury and reduce wastes from hospitals. Over 70 hospitals in VA have joined.
 - **Businesses for the Bay-** is a program with over 600 participants from the states that are located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The companies pledge to make reductions of wastes. The companies provide annual reports on their activities. Companies in VA have reduced over 167,000 tons of waste. There is an awards program for the best companies.
 - **Clean Marinas-** each participant must have a Best Management Plan to reduce pollution and is audited to check its performance. Members of this program are also members of Businesses for the Bay.

Keith's presentation is below.



VA CAN-VEEP
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Wayne Waldrop, DBA, initiated a discussion of how the awards given by the various P2 programs, described above, could possibly be incorporated into the activities/ceremonies that are part of Business Appreciation Week.

3. Old Business

- Richard reviewed VA CAN's website with its new links and posted calendar events. There was discussion of adding a link to DBA's Business Appreciation Week website.
- **It's time to select a new Chairperson of VA CAN. So a volunteer is needed.**
- There was discussion of the continuing efforts to share information, events and outreach opportunities.

4. Roundtable

Keith Boisvert – Mentioned that Clean Commute Day is May 6th and being sponsored by the American Lung Association and DEQ. For more information, the website is www.cleancommuteva.org/.

Georgiana Ball – Working with various state agencies to develop EMSs and aid in resolving waste issues. One major area of waste reduction has been electronics recycling.

Linda Hawkins – IRS is going through a reorganization with her program being reduced from 7 to 3. Educational materials will still be available. With the staff reduction, they will now provide a train the trainer program to outside groups and organizations (ie. SBDCs) to make presentations to their business groups.

Wayne Waldrop – Reviewed how DBA's Existing Business Services is providing help to VA's people and businesses. Their services include presentations, workshops, meetings, mailings, calls and face-to-face meetings. The VA Business Information Center has been very busy in receiving over 300 phone call and email inquiries per week about doing business in VA. They now have a CD that explains how to start a business in VA. There is an upcoming workshop about Small Business Procurement on April 26 in the Richmond area. Distributed the "Guide to Doing Business in Virginia" to members present. If you would like to receive copies for distribution, contact Wayne at wwaldrop@dba.virginia.gov or (804) 371-8228. A listing of the upcoming events for Business Appreciation Week in May is found at <http://www.dba.state.va.us/events/BAW%20Event%20Listing.pdf>.

Richard Rasmussen – In response to new regulations, the Small Business Assistance Program is continuing to develop a voluntary Environmental Results Program (ERP) for about 400 auto body shops in Northern Virginia. The program allows the shop to self-certify compliance after attending training, reviewing a workbook and completing a checklist. This ERP will be extended into the Richmond area in the next couple years when the regulations will include that area. The loan fund has some money remaining and has lent over \$1.3 million to various small businesses. Northern Virginia also will soon have a new regulation that covers consumer products (ie. air fresheners, deodorants, bathroom and glass cleaners, etc.). The items will be regulated at the manufacturing, distribution and retail levels. The National SBAP/SBO conference is in June in Mississippi.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21 at DEQ's Piedmont Regional Office at 10:00 AM.

6. Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 PM.